

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 OES-09 AGRE-00 DODE-00 IO-14

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NSAE-00 AID-05 SSO-00 INRE-00 /069 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5424

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 4027

DEPT. PASS USDA, EMERGENCY PROGRAMS DIVISION, ANIMAL,
PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, DR

SUBJECT: COMMERCE BETWEEN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAITI AND POSSIBLE
TRANSMISSION OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

REF: (A) SANTO DOMINGO 3712

(B) PORT AU PRINCE 3010

(C) PORT AU PRINCE 2965

1. DOMINICAN OFFICIAL EXPORTS TO HAITI NOW RUNNING AT ABOUT
DOLS 4 MILLION PER YEAR. MAJOR EXPORT ITEMS INCLUDE FERTILIZER,
REFRIGERATORS, PLASTIC PRODUCTS, PAPER BAGS AND OTHER
MANUFACTURERS. TWO SHIPMENTS OF PORK PRODUCTS INCLUDING
SMOKED HAMS, SALAMI, BOLOGNA AND SAUSAGES WENT TO PORT AU
PRINCE JUNE 12, 1978 FROM A PACKER IN SANTO DOMINGO. TOTAL
VALUE THESE SHIPMENTS LESS THAN DOLS 4 THOUSAND AND CONSIGNED
THREE SUPERMARKETS IN PORT AU PRINCE.

2. NORMAL MODE TRANSPORTATION IS BY TRUCK ACROSS THE
FRONTIER. ROUGHLY TEN TRUCKS PER WEEK CROSS INTO HAITI AND
RETURN. OTHER UNOFFICIAL EXPORTS UNDETERMINED VOLUME SHOES,
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GARMENTS, FOODSTUFFS AND HOUSEWARES WHICH CLASSIFIED AS
"SUITCASE COMMERCE". THIS TRADE INVOLVES LARGE NUMBER HAITIAN
WOMEN WHO FLY TO SANTO DOMINGO, PURCHASE GOODS IN PUBLIC
MARKETS AND TRANSPORT THEM IN LARGE BAGS AND SUITCASES BACK
TO PORT-AU-PRINCE FOR RESALE.

3. ACCORDING TO FIRST HAND REPORTS RECEIVED BY USDA VETERINA-

RIANS VISITING BORDER POINTS OF JIMANI, D.R. IT IS QUITE COMMON FOR DOMINICAN AND HAITIAN OFFICIALS STATIONED AT BORDER POINTS TO BARTER VARIOUS ITEMS INCLUDING LIVESTOCK BACK AND FORTH. THUS THERE EXISTS A STRONG PROBABILITY THAT DOMINICAN SWINE HAVE BEEN MOVED INTO HAITI IN RECENT WEEKS AND MONTHS. IN FACT, ACCORDING TO DOMINICAN VETERINARY OFFICIALS IN JIMANI DEATHS OF MANY SWINE IN HAITIAN TOWNS OF MALPASSE AND FOND PARISIEN HAVE OCCURRED IN RECENT WEEKS AND MAYORS OF DOMINICAN AND HAITIAN BORDER TOWNS HAVE CONFERRED OF MATTER. DOMINICAN VETERINARY OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO REPORTED HEARING OF SWINE DEATHS ON HAITIAN SIDE OF BORDER ACROSS FROM EL AGUACATE JUST SOUTH OF LAKE ENRIQUILLO.

4. IN ADDITION TO OFFICIAL TRADE, SUITCASE COMMERCE AND BARTER AT THE BORDER THERE EXISTS AN UNDETERMINED VOLUME OF SMUGGLING OF VARIOUS PRODUCTS ACROSS THE BORDER IN BOTH DIRECTIONS DEPENDING ON RELATIVE PRICE LEVELS AND EXPORT DUTIES.

5. HAITI'S OFFICIAL EXPORTS TO THE D.R. TOTAL LESS THAN DOLS. ONE MILLION ANNUALLY. SISAL FIBER IS BELIEVED TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEM AND MOVES BY TRUCK TO SANTO DOMINGO. MAJOR BORDER CROSSING POINTS ARE AT DOMINICAN TOWNS JIMANI, ELIAS PINA AND DAJABON.
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